(b) The coverage of goods and the tariff liberalization programme under various Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) are finalized after due consultation with domestic stakeholders, which includes the automobile industry in the country, so that their views and sensitivities are taken into account in the negotiations.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Foreign capital investment in retail market

†954. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a demand has been made in a study report issued by certain private sector institutions that foreign capital investment may be increased by 49 per cent in retail market;

(b) if so, the names of such institutions and the details of the study reports forwarded by these institutions to Government during last three years;

(c) whether Government have made any cost benefit analysis on this report on retail market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) The Study Report of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations has recommended gradual opening of the FDI regime for retail trading and allowing FDI upto 49% in the initial stage. The Centre for Policy Alternatives has, *inter-alia,* recommended strengthening of domestic retail industry and gradual entery of foreign players with social safeguards. The issue is being discussed among the stakeholders. Government has not, so far, taken any decision on the subject.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.